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CONSUMER TIME

A SCIENTIST LOOKS AT RUSSIA

NETWORK: NBC

DATE: October 6, 1945

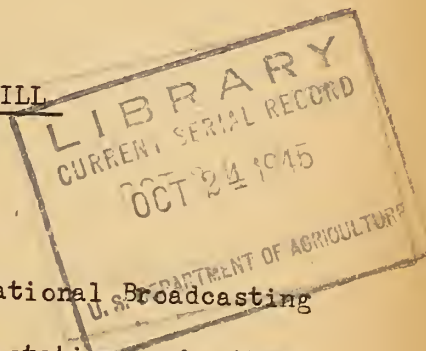
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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE...MONEY IN TILL
2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME!
3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER
4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available as a public service for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. And here are Mrs. Freyman and Johnny.
5. JOHN: CONSUMER TIME friends, this past summer, a group of American scientists were invited to visit Soviet Russia, as guests of the USSR. The occasion was the two-hundred-and-twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Russian Academy of Sciences. While these scientists were there, they had a chance to visit Russian families...to talk to them...to see how they live...to learn what some of the Russian consumers' problems are, in this postwar world.
6. FREYMAN: Because we felt that such a picture would be interesting to consumers here in this country, we have asked one of those scientists to be with us today. He is Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Chief of the Division of Soil Survey in the Department of Agriculture. (MORE)



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FREYMAN (CONT) Dr. Kellogg...we're all very interested in knowing more about the Russian people...personally. Even though you were occupied mainly with scientific observation...during your stay, you undoubtedly saw a great deal of Russian everyday living. How the people are eating...what they are wearing...how they are "reconverting" to peaceful lives.

7. KELLOGG: Yes, Mrs. Freyman, as a matter of fact, I did have the opportunity to see and talk to many of the people on my trip this summer. I'd say that probably most Americans visiting the Soviet Union would have a good many surprises coming to them.

8. FREYMAN: Surprises? How do you mean, Dr. Kellogg?

9. KELLOGG: Well, in the first place, it's difficult to evaluate; to generalize about the people, or conditions, in Soviet Russia. It's just too big, and there is too much.

10. FREYMAN: It depends on how you look at it...and what you compare it with, is that what you mean?

11. KELLOGG: Exactly. If you compare the people against a background of Fifth Avenue in New York City...they might look poorly clothed, for instance. You might feel that many of them are undernourished; that they look unhappy. But if you look at them in relation to the desperate hardships of war, the appalling shortages of food and clothing...and the unbelievable suffering...well, you would be amazed. You'd be amazed that they look so well and strong; so alert and eager; that they emerged so splendidly and triumphantly from the horrors of war.

12. JOHN: Well, Dr. Kellogg...there are still shortages of a great many things in Russia, are there not?

13. KELLOGG: Oh I should say so. The factories are getting back to peacetime production as fast as possible. But the first things to be made in Russia are tractors and trucks; steel...railroad equipment...fertilizers. Those things necessary to mend the transportation system...the industries...and the agriculture of a war-torn country.
14. FREYMAN: In the meantime, it's going to be a long, long wait for the women of the Soviet Union...before they get nylon stockings, for instance, and the new clothes.
15. KELLOGG: It will undoubtedly be a long time. Most of the people I saw were very drably dressed. Their clothes are old and mended over and over again. I noticed that the women wear mostly knitted things.
16. FREYMAN: I guess there is a great shortage of fabrics.
17. KELLOGG: Indeed there is. In fact, if a woman had a good sweater...a new one...she'll wear that to the most formal dinner, and be quite in style.
18. JOHN: Well, Dr. Kellogg...what about food. Is that scarce too?
19. KELLOGG: Yes, many foods are. We visiting scientists enjoyed an unusual variety of food, as guests of the Soviet Union. We'd be invited for a "cup of tea", which would usually turn out to be a banquet. But in general, although the people may have an adequate ration, I think the selection of foods is not very inspiring. I would say the bulk of their food right now is bread and potatoes.
20. FREYMAN: And everything, I suppose...is rationed?
21. KELLOGG: Everything...shoes, clothes and foods of all kinds. It's an extremely complicated ration system...with many different sort of tickets...depending on the size of your family...the kind of work you do...and your ability.

22. FREYMAN: Then I suppose there are no luxury items that can be bought for a lot of money.
23. KELLOGG: Oh yes there are. Ice cream, for instance, is a rare delicacy. I slipped out between the acts of an opera one night to buy some ice cream...and found a small portion cost about four dollars.
24. JOHN: Well, I guess not many children run around with ice cream cones, do they, Dr. Kellogg?
25. KELLOGG: No, and there are not many chocolate bars eaten, either...I priced some at about \$20.00.
26. FREYMAN: My goodness!
27. KELLOGG: But of course that's the exception. You do find very costly things on sale at what the Russian people call the "expensive stores". But in general, food prices seem to have been kept down within easy reach of pocketbooks. It's those ration ticket you have to watch.
28. FREYMAN: Now, you're a soil scientist, Dr. Kellogg...can you tell us a little about Russian agriculture? Are they making many scientific improvements in their methods of growing food?
29. KELLOGG: Yes they are. For instance they're experimenting on new and hardier types of fruits, and vegetables, and cereals...to be grown in the cold, bleak climates of Siberia. The Russians have a high regard for science, you know, and they're extremely eager to learn.
30. FREYMAN: I see.
31. KELLOGG: People in the Yakut district for instance, have to adapt themselves to a special climate. They are developing crop and livestock production in a region where the sub-soil is always frozen. In the Soviet Union today...scientific work is directed towards agricultural improvement and toward the welfare of farm people as much as toward industry.

32. FREYMAN: That's very interesting, Dr. Kellogg.
33. KELLOGG: It is particularly so to me, as a soil scientist, because actually modern soil science originated in Russia.
34. FREYMAN: And I guess when an American scientist visits the Soviet Union, he's very much flattered, isn't he, Dr. Kellogg?
35. KELLOGG: Yes...they're tremendously interested in what we have to say. They want to learn and use new scientific principles and developments. In fact, the Russians seem very grateful for all we have given them.
36. FREYMAN: Would you tell our CONSUMER TIME listeners what you were telling us...about the old lady at the railroad station...
37. KELLOGG: Yes, that's a good example...I got off the train at one station, and an elderly lady from a nearby farm came up to me and gave me some wildflowers. She told me with tears in her eyes how the enemy had destroyed all their livestock and buildings... and how American aid came just in time to save them from death or worse. She said she wanted to give the wild flowers to an American...as a symbol of her gratefulness.
38. JOHN: And wasn't it at that same place that the soldier gave you a gift too?
39. KELLOGG: Yes...a wounded soldier presented me with an ash tray he had made himself from a German shell. He said it was a token of gratitude for American war materials that helped him and his comrades drive the invaders back. I found good will towards Americans every where I went.
40. FREYMAN: Well now, to get back to how the people live, Dr. Kellogg... you were talking about shortages.

41. KELLOGG: Yes...for instance, there's an unbelievable paper shortage. New books and magazines are very few...and wrapping paper for instance, hardly exists at all. Here we talk about "severe" paper shortage or meat "famine"...well, we just don't have words in the language to describe the kind of scarcity the Russians have had. Little things, such as a needle...or matches ...or a piece of string...they're almost impossible to find. But of course the people talk cheerfully of better days to come, when factories can begin to turn out civilian supplies again.

42. JOHN: Well, now...tell us this, Dr. Kellogg...what do the cities themselves look like...the streets for instance, and the buildings. We hear a lot about the Soviet Union...yet it's very seldom we get an opportunity to hear a first hand account of the, well...the little everyday things.

43. KELLOGG: All right, you asked about the streets in Russian cities, for instance. They're ordinary in most ways...some are concrete, some asphalt, or cobblestone. Perhaps the main streets are wider than those in American cities. But there was one thing about them that amazed me.

44. FREYMAN: What was that?

45. KELLOGG: Well, they're simply immaculate. People just don't throw cigarette butts or old newspapers or rubbish on the streets.

46. FREYMAN: Why I never heard that before.

47. KELLOGG: It's a fact. And the same holds true for the subway trains and stations. Each underground station is a unique place. Crowds of people ride the escalators and pack the cars...but there's no litter anywhere.

48. FREYMAN: I wonder why that is?

49. KELLOGG: One citizen told me that if a person doesn't throw rubbish on his floor at home, he doesn't throw it on the floor of his subway car, or in the street. But whatever is the reason, the streets are certainly clean.

50. JOHN: Now that's something to know.

51. KELLOGG: Yes, and there are no billboards along the streets and country roads...which makes traveling more pleasant. And there's something else about the cities...at least in the city of Moscow.

52. FREYMAN: What's that, Dr. Kellogg?

53. KELLOGG: Every bit of land that was not taken up by streets or by buildings...was planted in victory gardens this summer. Big ones and little ones...of all shapes. This was quite a sight from the air.

54. FREYMAN: I guess the people really needed that food.

55. KELLOGG: They did...and do still. Now about the Russian countryside... I'd say that the thing an American would notice first is that there aren't any scattered farms. The farm population is centered in villages...and the people farm the land around them. Of course there's nothing new about this way of living in Russia...it's a very old pattern, which dominates in eastern Europe and in Asia.

56. JOHN: I see...

57. KELLOGG: Now around Moscow, for instance...you could easily imagine yourself in the Northern Lake States, upper Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, from the appearance of the fields and forests. But of course, Russia is so vastly big, you see many, many different kinds of countrysides!

58. JOHN: I should think so! Now here is something else I've been interested in, Dr. Kellogg...it's about the women doing the work of men, in Russia.

59. KELLOGG: Yes, that's the usual thing...nobody thinks about it one way or the other, as far as I could tell. A unit of soldiers tore up a section of streetcar track and repaved the street in front of my hotel while I was there. And about a third of them were women.
60. FREYMAN: Is that so?
61. KELLOGG: Yes and it's usual to see more women than men in a group of bridge builders, or plasterers, or carpenters. And they seemed to me to be none the worse for it. As a matter of fact, in all trades and professions women appear to have absolute equality. And I believe that in the Soviet Union every woman who can work...is working.
62. FREYMAN: But what about the thousands of children of the working mothers?
63. KELLOGG: Well wherever I went, at least, there were efficient systems of day care nurseries. Of course I'm no expert in such matters, but they seemed very clean and well organized. In some railway stations, there are great rooms set aside just to accomodate mothers with small children, who must wait for trains. In the station at Novobibirsk there were hundreds of cots in rows, and as far as I could see, they were all full.
64. FREYMAN: I have always heard that the Russian children are very well looked after.
65. JOHN: Were you impressed, Dr. Kellogg...by the great Russian fondness for the opera and the theatre?
66. KELLOGG: I should say so. The theatres in Moscow and Leningrad are famous...but they are also being developed in the little towns and the new cities in Siberia. And everybody goes. We Americans might spend our extra money on household gadgets and modern improvements...the Russian would very likely spend it on going to the opera.

67. FREYMAN: And what about the movies?
68. KELLOGG: Well, movie tickets, like theatre tickets, are sold in advance, and all seats are reserved. A movie house consists of several small rooms, and in each room a different movie is shown. From what I could see...they were usually filled to capacity.
69. FREYMAN: Now Dr. Kellogg...I see our time's getting short...but I'm sure our CONSUMER TIME listeners want to hear a little about what you saw when you were in Leningrad.
70. KELLOGG: As everybody knows...the defense of Leningrad will go down in history as a glorious symbol of the Soviets' determination to be free. For long periods, during the siege of Leningrad, the city was strategically and technically defeated. The defenders were squeezed into a small space and pounded from all sides. There simply aren't words to describe the hunger and cold...the terrible shortages, and suffering during the long siege.
71. FREYMAN: Does Leningrad still look badly battered, Dr. Kellogg?
72. KELLOGG: Well, at first glance, the central part of the city doesn't look badly damaged. The old bridges across the Nova river were scarcely touched. But with a more careful look, I saw that many of the buildings were badly hurt inside.
73. JOHN: But the city isn't by any means leveled, the way Stalingrad was?
74. KELLOGG: No...there was nothing left there. But there was wanton destruction in Leningrad. I visited the famous palace of Peter the Great, which had been turned into a cultural museum. That was destroyed. The enemy had even poured explosives into the lower pipes and had blown up the beautiful fountains.
75. JOHN: During the siege, there was no way at all to get food into the city, was there?

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DECEMBER 1, 1919

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76. KELLOGG: A great deal of the time, no. Thousands of people starved... and they died not only of wounds...but sheer fatigue. And yet they held on tenaciously. The big steel factory on the edge of town never stopped operating throughout the siege...but it was hit seventy-thousand times by bombs. Seventy thousand. And the workers kept on. Many hundreds died, but more replaced them.
77. FREYMAN: It must have been unbelievably awful.
78. KELLOGG: Of course the food situation was about the worst of all. Every possible resource had to be utilized. The people even discovered a way to get vitamins from the pine needles in the park. My interpreter, a young woman, went through the siege of Leningrad. Her ration for five whole months...consisted of only two slices of bread a day.
79. JOHN: Things like that are almost impossible for us to imagine.
80. KELLOGG: Yes, they are. But the people of Leningrad are now busy rebuilding and repairing. They've got a very big job just on the agricultural land around the city. I think it will take months, or maybe years, to remove the mines, and clear away the rubble...so that food can be grown on the land.
81. FREYMAN: Well, the victory at Leningrad is one of the greatest stories of heroism of all times.
82. KELLOGG: It is indeed. I came away from Leningrad much sobered by my experience. And with a profound respect for the solid patriotism and love of liberty...of the common people of Russia.
83. JOHN: Well, Dr. Kellogg, this has been very interesting...and we've enjoyed hearing your impressions of the Soviet Union and it's people.

84. FREYMAN: CONSUMER TIME friends...you have heard Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, Chief of the Division of Soil Survey of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Kellogg was recently invited with several other scientists to travel through the Soviet, as a guest of the Academy of Sciences.
- Incidentally, the invitation came to him personally, and he went as a private citizen, not as an official representative of the Government.
85. JOHN: And now Mrs. Freyman...just one word about next week's program.
86. FREYMAN: Next week we're going to hear all about the fabrics situation... why you will find knitted things scarce...and...
87. JOHN: And when there'll be more of what...is that it, Mrs. Freyman?
88. FREYMAN: That's it exactly.
89. JOHN: So be with us next week...for another edition of...
90. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
91. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME!
92. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER!
93. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Christine Kempton, is produced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It comes to you from Washington, D. C. This broadcast period for CONSUMER TIME has been made available as a public service.
- This is the National Broadcasting Company!

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1. The Government of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as the Government, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the letter of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, dated the 10th day of March, 1946, in relation to the subject matter of the letter.

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